Dictionary for HSEES Public Use Data
1996-2001

This is the data dictionary for the public use dataset of ATSDR's Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance System (HSEES).

*****When printing this document it is recommended that the layout orientation be changed to landscape.*****

This document provides users with information for using the HSEES public use dataset. The data are related to events that occurred in the 17 HSEES states from 1996 to 2001. During the entire time period analyzed 13 states participated in HSEES: Alabama, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. An additional four states participated during portions of the time period: New Hampshire (1996), New Jersey (2000-2001), Utah (2000-2001), and Louisiana (2001).

The public use dataset is in an ASCII format containing tab delimited fields. The file contains 39,764 records, 71 variables, and a maximum record length of 336.

This flat file contains one line of data for each event reported to HSEES. If the total number of chemicals in an event exceeds six, then only the first six are listed. A victim is defined as a person experiencing at least one documented adverse health effect (such as respiratory irritation or chemical burns) that likely resulted from the event and occurred within 24 hours of the release. The HSEES system does not identify the immediate cause of the adverse health effect other than the event itself. To determine the nature of victim injuries, state coordinators selected up to 7 entries among trauma, respiratory irritation, eye irritation, nausea or vomiting, heat stress, chemical burns, thermal burns, skin irritation, dizziness or other CNS symptoms, and headache. Therefore, the number of injuries per event is likely to exceed the number of victims.

State coordinators could select up to two categories to describe the type of area where the event occurred, contributing factors, type of fixed-facility for fixed-facility events, and type of transportation for transportation events. Information on contributing factors for transportation events was collected beginning in 2000.

The Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) is used to represent county codes that are unique within each state. Pre-appended 2-digit FIPS state codes are provided to form the complete FIPS county code. Some events may lack the three digit county code because no county is listed for that particular event. A list of state and county FIPS codes for the United States can be found at the following website: http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/codes/state.html .

Industry codes for the type of industry responsible for each HSEES event were assigned according to the 1990 Industrial Classification System of the U.S. Census Bureau (Bureau of the Census).   The industry classification system consists of 243 codes (see Appendix A).

Variable	Position	Type	Length	Description	Value
RCD_ID	1	NUM	8	Sequential record number	A number
STATE	2	CHAR	2	State where event occurred	AL = Alabama CO = Colorado IA = Iowa LA = Louisiana MN = Minnesota MO = Missouri MS = Mississippi NC = North Carolina NH = New Hampshire NJ = New Jersey NY = New York OR = Oregon TX = Texas RI = Rhode Island UT = Utah WA = Washington WI = Wisconsin
EVNTCNTY	3	CHAR	30	County where event occurred	Text string
FIPSCODE	4	CHAR	5	Five digit FIPS county code	(See http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/codes/state.html)
EVNTTYPE	5	CHAR	1	Type of event	T = Transportation F = Fixed facility
THRTACTU	6	CHAR	1	Was the release actual or threatened	1 = All actually released into the environment 2 = All threatened to be released into the environment 3 = Some actually and some threatened to be released
YEAR	7	CHAR	4	Year when event occurred	1996 1997 1998 1999 2000

					2001
SEASON	8	CHAR	1	Season when event occurred	W = Winter (December, January, February) S = Spring (March, April, May) U = Summer (June, July, August) F = Fall (September, October, November)
WEEKDAY	9	CHAR	1	Portion of week when event occurred	Y = Weekday (Monday – Friday) N = Weekend (Saturday – Sunday)
TIME	10	CHAR	1	Time range that event occurred	D = 06:00 – 17:59 pm N = 18:00 – 05:59 pm
AREATYP1	11	CHAR	1	Description one of type of area where event occurred	0 = Vacant 1 = Industrial 2 = Commercial 3 = Residential 4 = Rural/agriculture 5 = Forest 6 = Wetlands or coastal 7 = Surface water 8 = Other A = Military facility/DOE/DOD B = Railway, rail yard, and roadways C = Recreational
AREATYP2	12	CHAR	1	Description two of type of area where event occurred	(Codes are the same as AREATYP1)
AREA_RES	13	CHAR	1	Residential area within ¼ mile of event	1 = Yes 2 = No
FACTOR1	14	CHAR	1	First contributing factor	1 = Improper mixing 2 = Equipment failure 3 = Operator Error 4 = Improper filling, overfill 8 = Other A = Maintenance B = System/process upset C = System start up and shutdown

					D = Factors beyond human control E = Power failure/electrical problems F = Unauthorized/improper dumping G = Deliberate damage H = Bad weather condition I = Motor vehicle accident/rollover J = Fire K = Explosion
FACTOR2	15	CHAR	1	Second contributing factor	(Codes are the same as FACTOR1 except there also is 7 = No Secondary Factor)
FIXTYPE1	16	CHAR	1	Fixed facility type one	0 = Transportation within a fixed facility 2 = Process vessel 3 = Piping 4 = Material handling area 5 = Storage area above ground 6 = Storage area below ground 7 = Dump/waste area 8 = Other A = Ancillary process equipment B = Transformer or capacitor C = Incinerator D = Heating/Cooling for building E = Secondary Contamination F = Outdoor, farming or industrial areas G = Outdoor, non-farming or non-industrial areas H = Indoor, non-industrial, non-living areas J = Laboratory
FIXTYPE2	17	CHAR	1	Fixed facility type two	(Codes are the same as FIXTYPE1)
TRNTYPE1	18	CHAR	1	Transportation type one	2 = Ground 3 = Rail 4 = Water 5 = Air 6 = Pipeline

					8 = Other
TRNTYPE2	19	CHAR	1	Transportation type two	(Codes are the same as TRNTYPE1)
IND_DESC	20	CHAR	75	Industry code description	Text String
IND_CODE	21	CHAR	3	Three digit industry code	(See Appendix A)
ATHOMQTR	22	NUM	8	Number of people at home within ¼ mile of event	A number
LIVEQTR	23	NUM	8	Number of people living within ¼ mile of event	A number
EVAC_ORD	24	CHAR	1	Evacuation ordered	Y = Yes N = No
EVAC_PPL	25	NUM	8	Total number of people evacuated as a result of the event	A number
DCON_SN	26	NUM	8	Number of people decontaminated at the scene	A number
DCON_MF	27	NUM	8	Number of people decontaminated at a medical facility	A number
TOT_CHEM	28	NUM	8	Total number of chemicals spilled	A number
SUB_CAT	29	CHAR	2	Substance category	1 = Acid 2 = Ammonia 3 = Bases 4 = Chlorine 5 = Other inorganic substances category 6 = Paints and dyes 7 = Pesticides 8 = PCB's 9 = VOC 10 = Other substance category not listed 12 = Mixture across chemical categories A = Formulations B = Hetero Organics

					C = Hydrocarbons D = Oxy-Organic E = Polymers 88 = Multiple substance categories
CHEM1	30	CHAR	70	Chemical name one	Text string
RELS1CHEM1	31	CHAR	1	First type of release for Chemical #1	1 = Spill 2 = Air Emission 3 = Fire 4 = Explosion 7 = Threatened 8 = Other type of release
RELS2CHEM1	32	CHAR	1	Second type of release for Chemical #1	(Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1)
CHEM2	33	CHAR	70	Chemical name two	Text string
RELS1CHEM2	34	CHAR	1	First type of release for chemical #2	(Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1)
RELS2CHEM2	35	CHAR	1	Second type of release for chemical #2	(Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1)
CHEM3	36	CHAR	70	Chemical name three	Text string
RELS1CHEM3	37	CHAR	1	First type of release for chemical #3	(Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1)
RELS2CHEM3	38	CHAR	1	Second type of release for chemical #3	(Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1)
CHEM4	39	CHAR	70	Chemical name four	Text string
RELS1CHEM4	40	CHAR	1	First type of release for chemical #4	(Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1)
RELS2CHEM4	41	CHAR	1	Second type of release for chemical #4	(Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1)
CHEM5	42	CHAR	70	Chemical name five	Text string
RELS1CHEM5	43	CHAR	1	First type of release for chemical #5	(Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1)
RELS2CHEM5	44	CHAR	1	Second type of release for chemical #5	(Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1)

CHEM6	45	CHAR	70	Chemical name six	Text string
RELS1CHEM6	46	CHAR	1	First type of release for chemical #6	(Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1)
RELS2CHEM6	47	CHAR	1	Second type of release for chemical #6	(Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1)
TOT_VICT	48	NUM	8	Total number of victims of the event	A number
AGE_RNG1	49	NUM	8	Number of victims between birth and 19 years of age	A number
AGE_RNG2	50	NUM	8	Number of victims between 20 and 64 years of age	A number
AGE_RNG3	51	NUM	8	Number of victims 65 years of age or older	A number
VICT_EMP	52	NUM	8	Number of employee victims	A number
VICT_RESP	53	NUM	8	Number of responder victims	A number
VICT_GP	54	NUM	8	Number of general public victims	A number
VICT_STD	55	NUM	8	Number of student victims	A number
INJ_TRA	56	NUM	3	Number of victims with trauma injuries	A number
INJ_RESP	57	NUM	3	Number of victims with respiratory system irritation	A number
INJ_EYE	58	NUM	3	Number of victims with eye irritation	A number
INJ_GASTRO	59	NUM	3	Number of victims with gastrointestinal problems	A number
INJ_HEAT	60	NUM	3	Number of victims with heat stress injuries	A number
INJ_CHEM	61	NUM	3	Number of victims with chemical burn injuries	A number
INJ_THERM	62	NUM	3	Number of victims with	A number

				thermal burn injuries	
INJ_SKIN	63	NUM	3	Number of victims with skin irritation injuries	A number
INJ_CNS	64	NUM	3	Number of victims with dizziness or other CNS symptoms	A number
INJ_HACHE	65	NUM	3	Number of victims with headaches	A number
INJ_HRT	66	NUM	3	Number of victims with heart problems	A number
INJ_SOB	67	NUM	3	Number of victims with shortness of breath	A number
SEV_DTH	68	NUM	8	Number of victims where injury severity was deadly	A number
SEV_HOSPA	69	NUM	8	Number of victims where injury severity required treatment at hospital and admittance	A number
SEV_HOSPR	70	NUM	8	Number of victims where injury severity required treatment at hospital without being admitted or victim was transported to hospital for observation with no treatment	A number
SEV_NHOSP	71	NUM	8	Number of victims where injury severity required treatment on the scene (first aid); or victim was seen by a private physician within 24 hrs; or injuries were experienced within 24 hrs of the event and reported by	A number

				an official	